



**Legislative Report**  
**January 11, 2013**  
**Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Quarterly Update**  
Provided by the Animal Industry Division  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

*Act No. 247 Public Acts of 2008, Approved by the Governor\* July 17, 2008, Filed with the Secretary of State July 18, 2008, EFFECTIVE DATE: July 18, 2008.*

*AN ACT to make appropriations ...*

*Sec. 457. On or before October 15, 2008, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, the department shall report to the senate and house agriculture committees, the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on agriculture, and the senate and house fiscal agencies on the department's progress toward meeting the USDA requirements as outlined in the March 2007 bovine TB program review. The report shall include, but is not limited to, information and data on: wildlife risk mitigation plan implementation in the modified accredited zone; implementation of a movement certificate process; progress toward annual surveillance test requirements set out in the June 2007 MOU; compliance efforts and rates for animals crossing the Mackinac Bridge; efforts to work with slaughter facilities in Michigan, as well as those that slaughter a significant number of animals from Michigan; educational programs and information for Michigan's livestock community; any other item the legislature should be aware of that will promote or hinder efforts to achieve bovine TB-free status for Michigan.*

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## **A. MDA Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Activities**

### **Why We Do What We Do**

Michigan's citizens are protected from exposure to bovine tuberculosis (TB) organism as a result of the Bovine TB Eradication Program. The Michigan Bovine TB Program was established under Public Act 466, of 1988, as amended, the Animal Industry Act, and is required under Federal Law in order for Michigan producers to participate in interstate commerce of animals (9CFR Part 77) and to maintain a state status (9CFR Part 92). Bovine TB has economic and human health implications and the program is of high visibility and interest to farmers, producer groups, hunters, and the federal government. The disease is of high interest at the national level and other states would close their markets to Michigan cattle, meat, and milk products if the program were reduced or eliminated. 14,000 cattle producers in Michigan maintain over 1.1 million cattle each year. The Michigan program prevents farm to farm transmission of bovine TB and provides access to national and international markets. The 2,200 dairy producers not located within the modified accredited zone may sell Grade A milk without having to annually TB test their herds.

### **TB Review Report**

The report for the Bovine TB Program Review (aka audit) conducted by USDA-VS (United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS)) on August 7-10, 2012, was received by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) on December 11, 2012 (see attachment). Overall it was a good review for the TB Program. An interagency meeting was held December 20, 2012 to assign response duties. MDARD's response to the report is due February 1, 2013.

### **MOU-Split State Status Discussion Update**

MDARD was hoping to use the successful August Review of the TB Program to spring board into discussions with USDA-VS to develop a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a new Split State Status Application. Discussion began September 26. Since November 2, 2012, the focus of the discussion has been on having the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) conduct a risk analysis of bovine TB in Michigan before changing the present status of Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, and Roscommon counties.

The concern of the USDA-VS staff is that some of these counties have levels of bovine TB in free-ranging white-tailed deer that may present a risk to cattle. The risk assessment may take four to six months.

### **Atlanta Gamma Stimulation Lab**

USDA-VS has given MDARD the green light to apply for permission to use the Atlanta, Michigan Office gamma stimulation laboratory. One USDA-VS person and one MDARD person will need to be trained in the process of stimulating the gamma interferon test with pokeweed.

The National Veterinary Service Lab (NVSL) has agreed to develop a protocol to move the Atlanta, Michigan laboratory to fully functional status. MDARD is seeking to use the laboratory to improve the reliability of the gamma interferon testing done as a secondary test with animals that are found as suspects on the initial bovine TB test.

### **Presque Isle County - Cheboygan County Testing Completed**

All testing in Presque Isle and Cheboygan Counties within ten miles of the three TB positive deer discovered in Presque County in 2011 has been successfully completed. Seventy herds were tested since the high-risk area was declared on February 10, 2012.

### **B. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance**

For calendar year 2012, there were 428 whole herd tests in the Modified Accredited Zone, 335 whole herd tests within the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone, and 26 whole herd tests in the special surveillance zone (northern portions of Iosco and Ogemaw counties). For calendar year 2012, surveillance testing led to the identification of three infected herds.

### **C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds**

#### **TB Infected Herd #54**

The medium sized Alpena County TB positive dairy herd is following the test and remove process. This herd will have the third test in the series on February 26 and if the test is negative, the herd may be released from quarantine once a new herd plan is signed.

#### **TB Infected Herd #55**

This medium sized dairy herd in Alpena County was discovered as a result of routine TB testing and was designated as infected November 1, 2012. The farm is following the test-and-remove process. The herd had its first removal test last November 27-30, 2012. 102 cattle were tested with seven suspects sent to Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH). One of the seven suspects from the removal test was positive on the gross and microscopic exams with culture results pending. The second of three removal tests will take place January 29, 2013. The herd continues under quarantine until all testing is complete.

### **D. Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project**

The Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project began in 2008 with a goal to enroll 950 commercial farms with biosecurity practices that reduce the risk of cattle coming into direct or indirect contact with bovine TB infected free-ranging white-tailed deer. As of December 31, 2012, there were 916 commercial farms and another 47 freezer beef farms enrolled in the project. Currently 941 (98%) of these farms mitigation plans have been verified. Field staff will be conducting winter inspections on 892 farms in northern Lower Michigan. They started on November 16, 2012 and will finish March 15, 2013.

### **E. Communications/Outreach**

#### **Meetings of Interest:**

#### **TB Program Field Staff Training October 3, 2012**

Due to a spate of pokeweed failures during gamma testing, the TB Program requested Dr. Steve Bolin of the DCPAH laboratory to address MDARD field staff on October 3, 2012 during a field staff training session in the MDARD Atlanta Office. Of particular concern is the possibility that DCPAH may no longer offer Saturday stimulation of gamma samples beginning in 2014. TB Program staff shared a presentation with the field staff regarding MDARD's request to USDA-VS to consider permitting the TB Program to do the pokeweed stimulation of gamma interferon samples with pokeweed in Atlanta. TB Program staff are

also looking into various packaging options that may improve the viability of the samples during shipping.

Dr. Mark Camacho, USDA-VS Eastern Region's Epidemiologist, also conducted technical presentations on the scientific basis of TB testing, what happens during slaughter surveillance, and discussed what has happened nationally with bovine TB over the past year. One of many interesting points in his presentation on slaughter surveillance is that high-speed slaughter plants are processing up to eight carcasses a minute.

#### **Wildlife Risk Mitigation Meeting November 7, 2012**

A training meeting for the field staff doing winter inspections for the Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project was held at the MDARD Atlanta Office on November 7, 2012. USDA Wildlife Services (USDA-WS) staff also gave field staff an update on feral swine in Michigan. Field staff were asked to speak with producers as they inspect their farms about the TB Program's concerns with feral swine becoming established in the TB area. Field staff are to give a feral swine sighting information card with phone numbers to producers.

#### **TB Co-op**

Both USDA-VS and MDARD program staff attended an all-day USDA-VS Webinar at USDA-VS Michigan's East Lansing Office on Friday, December 14, 2012. USDA-VS is changing their cooperative (co-op) agreement program. There will be no specific TB co-op next year (April 2013-March 2014). Rather, the TB Program co-op requests will be packaged together with other animal health co-op requests in one unified application.

#### **Letter to Producers Regarding Public Meeting January 10, 2013**

A letter went out December 26, 2012 to all producers within ten miles of Infected Herd #55 announcing a public meeting on January 10, 2013 at the Wilson Township Hall. The department will also advertise the meeting in the local paper.

#### **News Release**

USDA Issues Final Rule for Animal Disease Traceability:

[http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/12/0366.xml&navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&edeployment\\_action=retrieve\\_content](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/12/0366.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&edeployment_action=retrieve_content)

#### **Bovine TB in the News**

Culling [UK] badgers could increase the problem of **TB** in cattle (The Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/theobserver/2012/oct/14/letters-observer>

Bovine tuberculosis is a serious problem for UK farmers, deserving the highest ... University of Michigan; Dr Tony Sainsbury, Zoological Society of London; ...